

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DLOS-09

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 FEA-01 /143 W

-----102254Z 121292 /70

P R 101604Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3752

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC EFIS PLOS

SUBJECT: US FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REF: (A) STATE 100991 (B) EC BRUSSELS 3515

(C) EC BRUSSELS 4053 (D) STATE 70908

1. THE MISSION HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT IN ADDITION TO AMENDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION GOVERNING FISHING OFF FRENCH GUIANA THROUGH JUNE 30 TO HAVE LICENSES ISSUED BY THE UK AS EC PRESIDENCY COUNTRY RATHER THAN BY THE COMMISSION, THE MEMBER STATES HAVE IMPOSED LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS THAT WILL BE GIVEN FISHING LICENSES FOR THIS PERIOD AS FOLLOWS: US-65, BRAZIL-18, JAPAN-16, KOREA-12, AND SURINAM-5. UPON LEARNING OF THIS LAST-MINUTE CHANGE, THE
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MISSION CONVEYED ITS CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION (FARNELL). THE MISSION OFFICER INFORMED FARNELL THAT SUCH A VESSEL LIMITATION IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE US-EC GIFA WHICH SETS QUOTAS ON THE QUANTITIES THAT MAY BE CAUGHT BUT DOES NOT IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF VESSELS EACH COUNTRY BELIEVES ARE NECESSARY TO HARVEST ITS CATCH IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER. HE RECALLED DEMARCHES ON APRIL 6 AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY THE MISSION

TO POINT OUT THAT OUR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION INDICATED NO NEED TO RESTRICT FISHING CATCH IN THAT AREA AT THIS TIME (REFS B AND C). TO DATE THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR ANY EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY. SUCH A LIMITATION, WHICH WOULD REDUCE BY ALMOST ONE-HALF THE US FISHING ACTIVITY OFF FRENCH GUIANA, IN ADDITION TO APPEARING UNNECESSARY WOULD IMPOSE SERIOUS ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS FOR THE US SHRIMP FISHING INDUSTRY IN THE AREA. MISSION OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A LIMITATION WOULD 1) APPEAR TO BE GOING BACK ON THE ASSURANCES GIVEN US EARLY IN THE YEAR THAT, PENDING CONCLUSIONS OF A FISHERY AGREEMENT, US FISHERMEN COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE AREA THROUGH 1977 AT THE SAME RATE AS IN 1975; AND 2) WOULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE RESENTMENT AGAINST THE EC WITH THE US FISHING INDUSTRY AND ITS SUPPORTERS.

2. FARNELL REPLIED THAT INITIALLY THE EC HAD PLANNED TO ESTABLISH THIRD-COUNTRY QUOTAS WITHIN TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES OFF FRENCH GUIANA BUT HAD DROPPED THIS IDEA (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE AND RELIABLE DATA AND FORESEEABLE DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCING QUOTAS). RATHER THAN PERMIT UNRESTRICTED FISHING, HOWEVER, THE EC HAD DECIDED RECENTLY TO IMPOSE DE FACTO QUOTAS BY RESTRICTING THE "FISHING EFFORT" OF THIRD COUNTRIES THROUGH LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF VESSELS THAT COULD FISH. FARNELL PROMISED TO BRING OUR CONCERN TO THE ATTENTION OF EAMON GALLAGHER, RECENTLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FISHERIES (DG-XIV).

3. COMMISSION SOURCES INFORM US THAT ADOPTION OF THE REGULATION BY THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE TECHNIQUE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 6 WAS DELAYED BY BRITISH INSISTENCE THAT ALL PROPOSED EC FISHERY REGULATIONS MUST FIRST BE REVIEWED BY A BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE BEFORE THEY CAN BE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL. ADOPTION OF THE MEASURE IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK.

4. REGARDING OTHER QUESTIONS RAISED BY REF A, EC COMMISSION AND COUNCIL SOURCES INFORM US THAT THERE ARE NO ARRANGEMENTS IN THE PROPOSED REGULATION FOR PAYMENT OF FEES FOR FISHING LICENSES.

5. THE PROPOSED REGULATION FOR FRENCH GUIANA AND THE EARLIER AUTHORIZATION FOR THE U.S. TO CONTINUE FISHING IN EC WATERS THROUGH 1977 ARE, AS NOTED PARA 5 REF A, UNILATERAL INTERIM MEASURES BY THE EC. AFTER 1977 US FISHING OFF FRENCH GUIANA OR IN ANY OTHER FISHING ZONES OF THE MEMBER STATES MUST BE GOVERNED BY A US-EC FISHING AGREEMENT. WE ANTICIPATE THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WILL BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE EC COMMISSION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977.

6. REGARDING EC COMMISSION EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE A REGIONAL SHRIMP FISHING ARRANGEMENT OFF NORTHEAST SOUTH AMERICA, COMMISSION

OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT SIMMONET HAS DELAYED UNTIL LATER THIS MONTH OR EARLY JUNE HIS INTENDED VISIT TO BRAZIL, FRENCH GUIANA AND POSSIBLY SURINAM. THE DELAY WAS CAUSED BY PREOCCUPATION WITH OTHER HIGH-PRIORITY NEGOTIATIONS AND PROBABLY ALSO BY THE CONTINUED NEGATIVE BRAZILIAN REACTION TO A REGIONAL FISHING AGREEMENT.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTIONS, FURTHER POINTS IT MIGHT WANT US TO MAKE, AND ANY ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION ON U.S. FISH CATCHES AND FISHING VESSELS OFF FRENCH GUIANA TO SUPPORT OUR ARGUMENTS AGAINST LIMITATIONS ON NUMBERS OF U.S. VESSELS. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LICENSES, FISHING AGREEMENTS, WATER BOUNDARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU04707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-1192
Format: TEL
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770575/aaaacnbl.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: de55c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 100991, 77 EC BRUSSELS 3515, 77 EC BRUSSELS 4053, 77 STATE 70908
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2587262
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FG, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/de55c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009